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The Art Department offers to-day an unusual selection of handsome pictures, in beautiful frames, at

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Prices that will enable you to have plenty of pictures in every room, for nearly every style of subject is represented in the line. Your particular attention is called toward the 50c and 75c kinds, for they are extra special values.

—Second Floor.

Better Dry Goods Co.

STREET-RAILWAY TAXES

OFFICERS OF LOCAL COMPANIES BEFORE THE STATE BOARD.

A Plea Made in the Interest of the Indianapolis Company and Various Interurban Roads.

Before the State Board of Tax Commissioners yesterday morning, representatives of the Indianapolis Street railway company appeared at length and presented masses of figures to show that the assessment of the company's property should not be increased and that, if anything, it is now too high. Attorney Charles N. Thompson did most of the talking for the company, and his statements were reinforced, every now and then, by remarks by President Hugh J. McGowan, Secretary Mitchell and Attorney Ferdinand Winter.

The total assessment made on the property last year was \$5,000,000, and that this assessment should not be increased was the burden of the representations made to the board yesterday.

In his talk to the board, Attorney Thompson said that the return of tangible property for this year is \$1,366,959.18; in 1901 it was \$1,366,959.18. But last year, Mr. Thompson pointed out to the Governor and the other members of the board, there was on hand about \$288,000 in cash, which was later paid out in interest on bonds; therefore the valuation this year is really about the same. The gross earnings in 1901 were \$1,198,794.92; this year \$1,367,810.78. The net earnings were \$152,217.98, more than double the net earnings of 1901. Then Mr. Thompson told where this year's earnings have gone.

SURPLUS SPENT FOR REPAIRS.
Every cent made, he said, has been spent for repairs to the property. Not a cent has been distributed as profits. Track work, he said, has cost the company an immense sum during the past year, and he gave the cost of the work at Illinois and Washington streets as \$15,646.47. Paying has also cost a mint of money, Mr. Thompson assured the board. Lacking a few dollars, it cost the company \$50,000 to pave between tracks on the principal streets. For trucks and motors, for overhead work, for boilers and generators, a sum amounting to more than \$100,000 has been expended.

Governor Durbin, who sat armed with a bunch of figures and intrenched behind a formidable barricade of papers, put a question now and then that the street-car men answered clearly, if with some hesitation. The Governor wanted to know if earnings were not earnings even if they were expended for improvements. In addition, the Governor held that interest paid on bonds represents earnings and should be considered in fixing the valuation of the property.

The Governor's most effective questioning came after he had examined some figures submitted by the company. "I see that you have submitted the return on real estate and bonds that has made behind the tax board raised \$400,000," he said. "Why do you not give us the real return last year?"

Mr. Thompson replied that the company presented the old figure because it believes that it is the true one. A similar question was asked by the Governor. "Why do you not give us the real return last year?"

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HOTEL LOBBY GLEANINGS

POSTMASTER ADAMS, OF VINCESSES, PROUD OF KNOX COUNTY.

He Claims It Is the Best County in the State—Other Visitors at the Hotels.

"We've got the best county in the State of Indiana," was the rather broad assertion made by the postmaster of Vincennes yesterday evening. He alluded to the county of Knox, whose shores are washed by the placid Wabash. The postmaster of the historical old town which is the county seat of Knox, is Thomas H. Adams, who is also editor of the Vincennes Commercial. Mr. Adams came to town yesterday on some personal business and while here looked after matters in connection with rural free delivery in his county. It is claimed for Knox county that it raises the biggest corn in the highest priced land and has the prettiest girls and the stanchest Republicans of any county in the State. Being a Second district county there are also some Democrats in that locality and most of them are of the free-silver variety. According to Mr. Adams this class of the Democracy is not well satisfied with the way things are going and particularly with the manner in which William J. Bryan is being neglected in this State. Although the district is heavily Democratic, Mr. Adams thinks it would not be a very great surprise if a Republican congressman is elected. "The fact is," he said, "that the second district is just now very busy and there is not much politics being talked. A great many improvements are being made in the way of new factories. The district is on a boom and we think this boom will have the effect of making the district Republican."

Flint Bottle Industry.

R. E. Breed, of Marion, was in town last night on his way home from French Lick Springs. He and George A. H. Shideler have been spending several days at the springs. Mr. Shideler will be in Indianapolis to-morrow. Mr. Breed says. Breed is at the head of a large flint bottle manufacturing establishment at Marion and Shideler was formerly associated with him in the management of the business. Shideler is yet a stockholder in the concern. The latter part of this month a committee of seven from the organization of bottle blowers will meet a like committee from the operators, at Atlantic City, and the scale for next season's work will be fixed. Breed thinks there will be no demand for an increase in wages.

No Meeting Held.

H. C. Starr, of Richmond, Warren Bigler, of Wabash, and Sidney Cantwell, of Hartford City, members of the executive committee of the Republican State committee, were in town yesterday. It was the intention to have a meeting of the committee yesterday, but as all the members were not here the plan was abandoned. Chairman Goodrich was here part of the day. Mr. Bigler will attend the Knights of Pythias encampment in California next month.

Sample of English Sarcasm.

An Indianapolis man has received a clipping from an English newspaper which shows how some of the Europeans view J. Pierpont Morgan. The clipping was sent to the Indianapolis man by his friend, the United States consul at Calcutta, France. It has the caption, "Pedestrian Privilege Card," which is followed by these words: "This is to certify that the bearer has my permission to walk on the earth. Signed, J. Pierpont Morgan, proprietor."

Senator Fairbanks Out of Town.
Senator Fairbanks left for Chicago yesterday and from there he will go to his farm in Illinois. To-morrow he will speak at the Fountain county Republican convention at Veedersburg.

Senator Fairbanks has nominated George Mansfield Arlow, of Indianapolis, for a cadetship at the government naval academy.

Home on a Vacation.

Elmer E. Stevenson, of Wabash, was in town yesterday, having recently returned from a visit to Tennessee. Stevenson is the Governor's wanted to know if earnings were not earnings even if they were expended for improvements. In addition, the Governor held that interest paid on bonds represents earnings and should be considered in fixing the valuation of the property.

Republicans in the City.
Edward E. Kelso, of Vevey, chairman of the Switzerland county Republican committee, was in town yesterday. E. A. Simmons, chairman of the Howard county committee, was also here.

At the Hotels.

C. W. Hooven, of Anderson, took dinner at the Grand Hotel yesterday.

Quincy A. Myers, a Logansport attorney and prominent Republican, was at the Spencer House yesterday.

John Montano, of Union City, who is prominently identified with the retail lumber dealers' organization of the State, was in town yesterday.

PERSONAL AND SOCIETY.
Mr. Arthur Moore is spending a few days at French Lick.

The Corona Club will dance at the Canoe Club to-morrow evening.

Miss J. R. Vavannah and children are at Bay View, Mich., for the summer.

Mrs. A. M. Robertson will leave soon for an extended trip through the West.

Miss Caroline Marmon has returned from a short visit at Lake Jovian, Mass.

Miss Lemon Steffy, of Sheridan, came last night to visit Miss Lillian Clark.

Miss Nora Ralston, of Detroit, is spending a week with her sister, Mrs. C. A. Young.

FOR OTHER PROPERTIES.
In the afternoon the board heard statements of Judge Olds, of Fort Wayne, in behalf of the Fort Wayne & Southwestern Traction Company. The new interurban line was also represented by its general manager, S. R. Nelson. On account of the fact that the road is new and that until April 1 it had shown a deficit instead of a dividend, the speaker then the board should be considerate in fixing a valuation. The road is still incomplete, they said, and still unbalanced. An immense amount of money will still have to be expended to bring it into perfect condition. The representatives asked the board to take into consideration the values and the interurban roads in fixing the assessment on it. The road has had no opportunity, they told the board, to make money as yet. No schedule of earnings was presented by the Fort Wayne & Southwestern Traction Company, but they assured the board that a schedule is not yet in shape to present such a schedule.

Mr. Joseph I. Irwin, owner and president of the Indianapolis, Greenwood & Franklin Company, appeared before the board to ask for a reduction in the company's assessment. The assessment made last year was \$1,100,000 per mile is much too high, he said, when the road's earnings are taken into consideration, and also the assessments made on other interurban properties. Alluding to the statements made by Mr. Irwin, a member of the board said after the meeting that while the property owned by the Union Traction Company of Indiana is assessed at \$8,000 per mile, and the property of the Indianapolis, Greenwood & Franklin Company at \$10,000 per mile, yet the extent of the mileage and the value of the properties must be taken into consideration. It is the rule of the State Board to first fix the total value of an interurban or a railroad property and then, for the sake of convenience, to distribute the valuation on a basis of mileage. The extensive system of the Union Traction Company, which he gave as an instance, would reduce its per-mile valuation to a figure below the per-mile valuation of the Indianapolis, Greenwood & Franklin, which he also mentioned for purposes of illustration, but in that, he said, there would be no injustice. To-day the board will hear statements from representatives of steam railroads.

"In all REAL ESTATE transactions INSURE THE TITLE. You then have no abstract to pay for and you get absolute security. The fee is REASONABLE."
INDIANA TITLE GUARANTY AND LOAN COMPANY, 129 East Market street.

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The applause caused the singer to respond several times. The first three songs did not satisfy the crowd. The fourth song was "Oh, Promise Me," a ballad that has been so long connected with her name. It was in this song that her voice, so well modulated, so full of expression and sweetness, seemed fairly to captivate the crowd. There was a slight lull after the last words had been sung and then the crowd broke forth in a storm of applause, causing her to answer to many encores.

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She Had to Respond to Several Encores—Concerts by Weber's Band at Fairview.

The popularity of Jessie Bartlett Davis with Indianapolis audiences was displayed to even a greater extent at Fair Bank last evening than on the opening night of her engagement. Every seat in the park was occupied and the driveways were crowded with people when the artist appeared. The lighting arrangements had been improved and her gorgeous gowns and wonderful expression could be distinctly seen by those in the last rows of seats. Her voice, too, possessed the same richness of tone and volume that won for her the admiration of the theatergoers of this as well as other cities. Persons on the outside of the park could distinctly hear her sing, so powerful and clear was her voice.

The applause caused the singer to respond several times. The first three songs did not satisfy the crowd. The fourth song was "Oh, Promise Me," a ballad that has been so long connected with her name. It was in this song that her voice, so well modulated, so full of expression and sweetness, seemed fairly to captivate the crowd. There was a slight lull after the last words had been sung and then the crowd broke forth in a storm of applause, causing her to answer to many encores.

She said after leaving the stage last night that she was afflicted with a slight cold on Monday evening. Her voice last evening could not have been clearer or more beautiful. She is delighted with Fair Bank, and says it is the most beautiful place she has ever seen. She said she would like to spend a week there to be crowded all the time.

The concert by Ostendorf's band was one of the best that has been given, several selections by Victor Herbert being among the numbers. The church chiming was great applause, as did several of the overtures. In addition to other songs Mrs. Davis will sing "Oh, Promise Me" again to-night and the rest of the week as there have been many requests for her to sing this favorite ballad each evening. The programme for to-night includes "The Song of Sousa's marches. The programme follows:

March, "The Man Behind the Gun," Sousa. Selections from